

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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O R 121230Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5789

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 7958

EXDIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID EG US

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY RELIEF ASSISTANCE FOR EGYPT

REF: A. STATE 189216 B. CAIRO 7180

1. OUR EGYPTIAN FRIENDS, PARTICULARLY FINANCE MINISTER ABU ISMAIL, ARE BECOMING SOMEWHAT IMPATIENT TO LEARN THE RESULTS OF OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS OF EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM JAPAN AND OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES. ABU ISMAIL INDICATED THAT HE COULD BE FACING SERIOUS SITUATION IN ABOUT A MONTH WITH RESPECT TO PAYMENT OF OBLIGATIONS DUE. HE ALSO NOTES, IN THIS CONNECTION, THAT FULL CONTRIBUTION FROM ARAB SIDE HAD NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED. SAUDIS AND KUWAITIS HAD CONTRIBUTED 600 AND 500 MILLION DOLLARS RESPECTIVELY, BUT CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR WAS LEAVING SHORTLY FOR QATAR TO TRY TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.

2. DCM INFORMED ABU ISMAIL AUG 12 OF JAPANESE WILLINGNESS TO RECONSIDER PROVISION OF FULL \$100 MILLION AS DESCRIBED PARA 3 REFTEL A. IN TURN, HE REPORTED THAT

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INFORMATION FROM EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN ROME INDICATED

NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN REACHED BY EC COUNTRIES, APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF INABILITY OF SOME NATIONS TO CONTRIBUTE TO FUND FOR EGYPT. HOWEVER, EGYPTIAN REPORT SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE ANOTHER EC MEETING IN ROME ON AUG 11 TO CONSIDER THIS MATTER FURTHER.

3. ABU ISMAIL NOTED THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT AMONG EC COUNTRIES SEEMED CONTRARY TO INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CHANCELLOR OF EXCHEQUER HEALEY IN LONDON WHEN ABU ISMAIL VISITED HIM TWO WEEKS AGO. HEALEY HAD INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DELAY IN PROVIDING SUCH ASSISTANCE ONCE EC AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED AS TO TOTAL SUM. ABU ISMAIL EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO EUROPEAN ASSISTANCE MAY HAVE DETERIORATED IN MEANWHILE. HE EXPRESSED EAGERNESS TO LEARN RESULTS OF AUG 11 ROME MEETING.

4. I HAD ALREADY EXPRESSED MY VIEW IN JULY (REFTEL B) THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR US TO GIVE A STATUS REPORT TO EGYPTIANS ON PROGRESS OF OUR EFFORTS TO DATE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF ESTIMATE GIVEN EARLIER TO SADAT THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO BEGIN IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM IN JULY. THIS RECOMMENDATION IS EVEN MORE VALID NOW. IF WE CAN POSSIBLY DO SO, I BELIEVE THAT IT IS DESIRABLE TO PROVIDE ABU ISMAIL AND GOE WITH CURRENT REPORT ASAP, PREFERABLY THIS WEEK.
ABU ISMAIL TOLD DCM THAT THIS SUBJECT WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING AUG 17, AND IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY TIMELY IF WE COULD PROVIDE A STATUS REPORT BEFORE THAT DATE.

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